

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. MOOD IS UPBEAT AT OPENING SESSION OF PREPCON II

AFTER RECEIVING OFFERS OF COOPERATION FROM THE SAUDIS, IRANIANS, AND INDIANS IN THE INITIAL ROUND OF BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS AND THEN CONGRATULATIONS FROM MANY DELEGATIONS AT THE OPENING SESSION FOR HAVING GOTTEN NEGOTIATIONS BACK ON THE TRACK, THE US DELEGATION TO PREPCON II FEELS:

--THERE IS A GENERAL DETERMINATION AMONG THE DELEGATES TO MAKE THE CONFERENCE A SUCCESS.

--MOST DELEGATES BELIEVE THE POSITIVE MOOD OF THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION HAS CARRIED OVER TO PARIS.

HOWEVER, THE GENERALLY GOOD IMPRESSION LEFT BY THE BILATERALS AND THE FIRST DAY SHOULD NOT OBSCURE THE ACTUAL DIFFICULTIES POSED BY SPECIFIC SUBJECTS. THE CONFERENCE

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FICULTIES POSED BY SPECIFIC SUBJECTS. THE CONFERENCE

TERMS OF REFERENCE MAY PROVE PARTICULARLY TROUBLESOME.
(CONFIDENTIAL) PARIS 26529 AND 26530, 10/13.)

2. THAI OFFICIALS OPPOSE RESIDUAL US PRESENCE AT UTAPAO

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF DEFENSE PRAMAN HAS ANNOUNCED HIS OPPOSITION TO MAKING THE US BASE AT UTAPAO AVAILABLE TO OUR FORCES ON A CONTINGENCY BASIS AFTER NEXT MARCH'S TOTAL PULLOUT. PRAMAN'S STATEMENT WAS ECHOED BY A FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN, WHO DENIED THAT THE US HAD MADE ANY SUCH REQUEST.

EMBASSY BANGKOK COMMENTS:

--ALTHOUGH THE STATEMENTS DO NOT PRECLUDE AGREEING ON A RESIDUAL US PRESENCE, THE OFFICIALS INVOLVED HAVE BOXED THEMSELVES IN AND WILL FIND THEIR REMARKS DIFFICULT TO DISAVOW.

--WE MUST MOVE QUICKLY TO OPEN TALKS BEFORE CONTINUING PUBLIC DISCUSSION FURTHER REDUCES THE OPTIONS.

(CONFIDENTIAL) BANGKOK 21591, 10/14.) KISSINGER

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